



GLOBAL FILM INITIATIVE ACQUIRES FIVE FILMS

NEW YORK, NY June, 2003 – The Global Film Initiative, a U.S.-based charitable foundation dedicated to the promotion of cross-cultural understanding through cinema, has acquired five films from five different countries for its Distribution and Education Programs. The announcement of initial Initiative acquisitions was made today in New York by Initiative Chairperson Susan Coulter.

The Initiative has selected these films based on its mandate to support original filmmaking in the developing world that makes use of the power of local storytelling traditions, as well as filmmaking that displays innovative use of the cinematic medium.

“These films represent a cross-section of the cinematic talents that American audiences are just not seeing on a sustained basis right now,” said Coulter. “The Initiative is proud to include these compelling, original stories in our growing library.”

Below, is the list of films the Initiative has acquired:

Ticket to Jerusalem (Palestine)

Director Rashid Masharawi

A Palestinian film projectionist’s perseverance is put to the test when he tries to organize a film screening in Jerusalem’s old city. Official Selection: Cannes, Toronto, New Directors/New Films

Shadow Kill (India)

Director Adoor Gopalakrishnan

In pre-independence India, a state-appointed executioner can no longer bear the guilty solitude of carrying out death sentences that are, more often than not, the result of politics rather than justice.

Official Selection: Venice, Toronto, Rotterdam

Khorma (Tunisia)

Director Jilani Saadi

In a Tunisian village, the seemingly idiotic Khorma is appointed the town’s official announcer of births, deaths and marriages, until his power begins to corrupt him. Official Selection: Toronto

Margarette's Feast (Brazil)

Director Renato Falcao

In an ode to classic silent films, a working-class everyman in Brazil escapes from his desperate life through the power of imagination. Official Selection: Rotterdam, Tribeca

Women's Prison (Iran)

Director Manijeh Hekmat

A diverse collection of women, including officially non-existent prostitutes and drug addicts, struggle to survive in a claustrophobic Iranian prison. Official Selection: Rotterdam, Toronto, Tribeca

Recently, The Global Film Initiative announced the line-up of award recipients for its inaugural Granting Program. Six grant recipients, selected from 31 submissions representing 18 countries, will receive completion funds for their feature films from the Initiative, which will also ensure that the granted films receive U.S. distribution.

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